

2003

Ronald E. McNair
Summer Research Journal



SUNY College at Brockport

Volume 8



Inspired

Creative



Focused

Driven

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About TRIO Programs

TRIO refers to six programs funded by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The original TRIO Programs are Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services. The name TRIO was retained even though more programs were added. The additional programs are Educational Opportunity Centers, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and a training program for TRIO staff. In general, TRIO programs are focused on providing educational opportunities to first-generation college students who come from low-income families and students with disabilities.

About Ronald E. McNair

Ronald Ervin McNair was born on October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. He continued his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning his PhD in 1976 and went on to become a recognized expert in the field of laser technology with the Hughes Laboratory.

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For more information contact the program at :
C-18 Cooper Hall
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420
Phone: (585) 395-2460, Fax: (585) 395-5410
E-mail: CSTEP-McNair@brockport.edu

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In 1978, McNair realized his dream of becoming an astronaut; selected from a pool of ten thousand applicants for the space shuttle program, McNair became the second African American to fly in space. After his death aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986, Congress approved funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which is dedicated to the support and promotion of the high standards of achievement exemplified by McNair. Those who knew McNair characterized him as fearless, determined, and accustomed to applying all available resources to any problem he faced.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the State University of New York, College at Brockport

Designed for first-generation and low-income students as well as students from groups underrepresented at the doctoral level, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at SUNY Brockport encourages talented students to pursue a doctoral degree.

The program promotes graduate studies by providing participants with seminars and workshops germane to the pursuit of graduate education, a mentored summer research experience, and opportunities to present this research at professional conferences.

Introduction & Acknowledgements

Dear Readers:

I am pleased to introduce you to the eighth volume of the Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Journal. This journal is a compilation of the work our scholars do each summer as they learn to conduct research in their chosen field. Under the guidance of dedicated faculty mentors, McNair scholars design and implement projects that teach them the fundamentals of creating and using knowledge and provides them with their first taste of the graduate and professional world they are preparing to enter. The Summer Research Program takes our students beyond the average undergraduate experience, setting them apart from their peers, as it elevates their education to a level not usually available to students pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

I am sincerely grateful to the mentors who invest so much of themselves in moving our students forward. The expertise and encouragement they provide is critical to the success of our McNair scholars, not only during their undergraduate years, but most importantly when they enter the competitive world of graduate school. The fact that 164 of our McNair alumni have successfully earned masters and doctoral degrees is a tribute to the quality of the work our mentors expect and elicit from their students. Those involved in nurturing our future professionals in this manner deserve to be highly commended. I look forward to seeing our scholars enter the ranks of academia and continue the process of personally investing in future generations, passing on what they have received through the dedication of our mentors, program staff, and campus community.



Barbara J. Thompson

**Project Director:
Ronald E. McNair
Post-Baccalaureate
Achievement Program**

Thanks:

Once again our Associate Director, Ms. Herma Volpe-van Dijk, and her husband, Mr. Matthew Volpe, have contributed countless hours to create this wonderful showcase for our students' work. We are very thankful as they continue to enhance our program with their expertise and tender loving care. Matt Volpe has served our program as a volunteer art director and enthusiastically shared his artistic talents with us during his free time. Thank you, Matt and Herma, for your commitment to our students and for setting a wonderful example of selflessness by promoting the efforts of low-income, first-generation students in such a beautiful package.

Acknowledgments:

The McNair staff would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Paul Yu, Dr. Timothy Flanagan, and Dr. Susan Stites-Doe who have assisted in strengthening our program this past year. Administered by the Office of Academic Affairs, the McNair Program benefits from a university-wide commitment to achieving our program goals. The U.S. Department of Education, other TRIO programs, the Research Foundation, and the entire institution collectively lend their efforts to the program's success.

The impact of recent corporate scandals on the demand for forensic accountants and changes in universities' curricula

Recent corporate scandals involving Enron, Worldcom and others have caused investors and the general public to lose confidence in the financial markets, corporate governance, and the accounting profession.

Thousands of individuals have lost their jobs while others have seen their retirement savings disappear.

The Houston Chronicle of May 27, 2002, states that Arthur Andersen knew the statements for years 1997 through 2000 were false and misleading and did not meet accepted standards, yet failed and refused to repudiate or withdraw its audit opinions on such statements. The article further stated that such acts by Arthur Andersen were discreditable to the profession.

Congress has reacted to these scandals and the public's reaction to the scandals by enacting the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which changes rules for corporate governance and the kinds of work CPAs may perform for audit clients. Congress also created the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to oversee the audits of public companies. Another reaction may see the increase in demand for forensic accountants. Business programs at universities may also see the need to add programs in forensic accounting.

Until recently, detecting fraud or white collar crime was thought to be part of the audit function. Fraud was something the internal or external auditors were supposed to guard against by periodic audits. The responsibility of independent auditors (CPAs) is to attest to the fairness of the financial statements using generally accepted



Joseph Aheto

Mentor:

**D. Donald Kent, Jr., PhD
Business-Economics**

accounting principles (GAAP) as the criteria for this attestation. Auditors consider evidence from sources inside and outside the audit client about the types of misstatements, including those involving fraud, the risk that such misstatements or fraud may occur, and other factors such as complexity of the entity's operations and strength of the client's internal control systems.

These factors influence the design of substantive tests, which are procedures carried out to collect evidence upon which auditors will base their opinion on the fairness of the financial statements.

On the other hand, forensic accounting is an area of accounting whose function is to carry out fraud audits for the purpose of discovering fraud. Forensic accountants make fraud vulnerability assessments and strengthen the financial statement reporting process by helping detect, and report financial fraud, investment fraud, kickbacks and commercial bribery, bank fraud, credit card fraud; electronic funds transfer fraud, and computer fraud.

The purpose of this study is to examine the responses of corporate controllers, certified public accountants (CPAs) and university professors regarding the impact of recent corporate scandals on investor confidence and the image of CPAs and corporate accountants. Corporate controllers and CPAs were also asked about plans to increase the use of forensic accountants, while university professors were asked about their plans to increase course or program offerings in forensic accounting. Surveys were mailed to 100 individuals in each professional category throughout the United States. The final results of this research will not be available until December 2003.

African Dance in the United States: The Ghanaian Cultural Experience Through Storytelling and Dance Drama



Harold Daniel Akyeampong

Mentor:

**Juanita Suarez, MA
Dance**

Ghana has a rich and diverse heritage of indigenous performances, which includes storytelling, theater, and ritual ceremonies. These traditional art forms incorporate music, dance, masks, costumes and dramatic skits. Storytelling as fictional narrations are used to stimulate critical thinking, creative use of the imagination, and the passing on of traditional mythology. Ghanaian storytelling teaches traditional morals, history, religion, roles and responsibilities, and a social-based code of ethics.

Munpurugu Yanga Yanga is a dance-drama production I was recently inspired to choreograph. It hails from the storytelling tradition of Ghana, West Africa. It was performed by the Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble as part of its annual concert at SUNY College at Brockport from May 1st to May 4th, 2003. The production tells how people in a rural community in Ghana, West Africa, bury their differences and come together in the face of adversity.

The strongest motivation behind my continuous research on Munpurugu Yanga Yanga stems from the heightened interest in African dance in the United States today. People are learning to perform African dances from many regions of the continent, especially West Africa. This trend is very encouraging and a significant move towards the development and implementation of multiculturalism. However, these trends have a downside, as there are many challenges facing the African dance instructor. A majority of the native instructors (who have no more than a high

school education) are teaching African dance by relegating the important historical and religious significance of the dance to the background. Thus, students in African dance miss much of the content of the dance. They sometimes perform these traditional dances with wrong historical

information. It is, therefore, important that a greater effort is put into the sharing and mastering of African dances within the right cultural perspective.

Another problem facing African dance instructors in the United States is that of possessing expertise in dances other than African. Compelled to teach African dance, because funding for new instructors is restrictive or department workloads shift to meet academic demands, most instructors lack sufficient training to teach the requisite knowledge and skills it takes to teach this subject. This problem has led to the same dances being taught year after year. This dilemma most likely contributes to the low attention African dance receives within higher institutions in the United States. To understand the complex nature of African dance, SUNY College at Brockport's exchange program with the University of Ghana's School of Performing Arts is at the forefront of championing the course of African dance in the United States.

Munpurugu Yanga Yanga was analyzed in light of the above stated challenges as it relates to the Ghanaian Akan culture that the dance draws from. It is the intention of this research to generate an interest in African dance in scholars and students alike. African dance has its own expression, style and history. Anyone interested in becoming a serious student of African dance must be well rounded in the discipline. I hope Munpurugu Yanga Yanga presents a cogent argument for further research in African dance.

Santeria: A Cuban Religion of the African Diaspora

There are hundreds of religions practiced in many different cultures all over the world. However, religion also has been and still is a subject of great dispute among people. Most people choose to believe in what they think will benefit their spirituality the most. Some people choose not to believe at all. A religion that has been greatly affected by this dispute is Santeria. Santeria is a religion practiced by people of African descent, mostly in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and, more recently, in the urban areas of New York and Florida. It evolved from the Yoruba people from Africa who were brought to the New World as slaves and forced to convert to Catholicism. As a result, they had to worship their gods in secret but eventually came to identify their gods with the saints of the Catholic Church.

Santeria is famous for its “magic.” This is magic based on knowledge of the mysteries and the Orishas (the gods) as well as the kind of interaction that is necessary to request the assistance of the Orishas. Thus, the santera, a practitioner of Santeria, or what people call a healer of



Ana Andujar

Mentor:
Stanley Rose, PhD
African and
Afro-American Studies

sorts, attempts to improve the lives of those who come for help. Under the Santeria belief system, life is lived on the premise that this world is a magical one. This knowledge seems “supernatural” only to those who do not understand it, but it is actually quite natural.

I became interested in researching Santeria as a result of my personal involvement.

My mother is a santera, a diviner of the future, a sorcerer, and, in more negative terms, a witch. For this research project, practitioners of Santeria were interviewed

in order to get a clearer understanding of what this religion stands for, what the beliefs are, who their gods are, and finally what differentiates it from other world religions.

I found that there is much ignorance about Santeria.

People do not understand how it works and so they simply cast it aside as a deviation of witchcraft. My purpose is to dismiss the negative connotations associated with Santeria and dispel some of the myths that surround it. I hope to show that it is possible for different people from different cultures to love the same God and yet believe in miracles in different ways.

Smoking Cessation Advice

In today's political climate it seems as if one can only smoke in the confines of their own automobile or home. However, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and the smoke that is produced when smoking one of these as well as those who smoke them, have recently found themselves the target of legislative action to ban smoking in all areas of public life.

A dilemma is posed when considering the many people who live at long-term residential care facilities and use tobacco and who are often prohibited from smoking because of the various smoking policies at their respective facilities. Moreover, residents of long-term health care facilities are in frequent contact with health care professionals, which places them in a unique position to receive regular cessation advice by qualified individuals. However, unlike other recipients of healthcare, prior research shows that smoking cessation advice is not given to many elderly residents at long-term care facilities (Carosella, Ossip-Klein, Watt & Podgorski, in press). This research project is an analysis of current investigation efforts that aim to examine attitudes of nursing home staff towards giving smoking cessation advice to residents at long-term care facilities; the long-term objective is two-fold:

- To build a data base representing a national sample of nursing home tobacco policies and the health care staff's prevalence of giving smoking cessation advice to elderly long-term residents.
- To understand health care staff's attitudes towards giving smoking cessation advice.

In addition to the long-term objectives, there are six specific goals:



Craig Aswad-Waleed

Mentor:

**Celia A. Watt, PhD
Health Science**

Specific Goal—1: Generate a database exhibiting a national sample of nursing homes' tobacco policies specific to resident smoking.

(Specific Goals 2-6 only apply to smoking facilities.)

Specific Goal—2: Explore the prevalence of health care staff giving smoking cessation advice to long-term care residents living in these facilities.

Specific Goal—3: Examine the attitudes and beliefs of health care staff regarding resident smoking.

Specific Goal—4: Investigate the facilitators of giving cessation advice.

Specific Goal—5: Examine the barriers to giving cessation advice.

Specific Goal—6: Determine if there are predictive variables to advising cessation.

In order to procure the information necessary for the current study, several methods are utilized to recruit participants. The AMDA (American Medical Directors Association) database provides a random list of physicians across the nation who have previously voiced interest in participating in research. Many hours were necessary and various methods were used to track these physicians in order to receive their endorsement of participation in the study. Next, surveys were mailed in bulk to health care staff (Physicians, Nurses, Nurse's Assistants, etc.) at smoking and non-smoking facilities across the U.S. Prior to mailing the surveys, hundreds of hours were spent devising the questionnaires, coding and assembling them.

The research team has begun receiving completed surveys from health care staff around the country via United States Postal Service. As the feedback continues to roll in, the information will be transferred to a database and later analyzed and interpreted.

The Empowerment of the African Experience

In order for anyone, from any race or ethnicity, to have creditable understanding of the African culture and the Diaspora, they must observe the root from which the tree grows.

Living in America as an African American, I did not have a proper understanding of who or I what was or what it meant to be of African descent. In the United States of America, Black History tells of a beginning that starts with slavery. There is very little information about the African continent, its peoples, traditions, legacies, and cultures. There are mostly accounts of capture, brutality, enslavement, slave ships, hate crime, lynching, and Jim Crow laws to name a few. Usually, the only aspect taught about Africa and her peoples is that Africans sold each other into slavery. Black History often fails to inform that Old World slavery and New World or chattel slavery were just as the titles state, worlds apart.

The slavery that the Africans knew was not exclusive to race and was not a system of hate, violence, and brutality. In the old world, the slave population was made up of all races and ethnicities and consisted mostly of prisoners of war who were treated more like domestic servants. Chattel slavery in the New World, however, was a system of unmerited oppression and insult, which was absolute, objective, and perpetual. It deprived its victims of all rights and identities and above all, it was an endless stripping of culture, confidence, and knowledge.

What is also left out is the fact that Africa is the home to the first human beings, the first communities, the first civilizations, the first governments, the first trading



Grant Atkins

Mentor:

**John K. Marah, EdD
African and
Afro-American Studies**

economies, the first universities, and just about the first everything. Hence, the title Mother Africa or "Mother of Creation." However, much like in our western household and other cultures, mothers are often disrespected, exploited, and brutalized, especially for their kindness and love.

Mother Africa is the richest continent in resources and culture.

This fact is inescapable. African traditions, history, and resources, have been incorporated and exploited by every culture around the world. This traditional

and resourceful wealth is why the Europeans took so much interest in the continent. First, they learned and later they stole, and when they stole, they stole everything that was of value to them. The most devastating theft was that of the people. But the roots run so deep, the land is so rich, and the cultures are so strong and ancient that the Europeans could not come close to stealing it all, even though they attempted this through slave trading, colonialism, and neo-colonialism, not to mention the mis-education, mis-information, brainwashing, and withholding of technological, developmental, and industrial technologies.

The purpose of this research will be to emphasize the absolute empowerment of the African experience in relation to the African Diaspora; to discuss the perceptual shift experienced by those diasporic descendants who make the pilgrimage home, as well as the newfound self-affirmation that accompanies el hajj to the pan-African motherland.

Modeling Tendon Mechanics

This study intends to support a theoretical model to non-invasively measure the mechanical qualities of a tendon. Using a reaction time paradigm, the electrical activity of muscle (IEMG) is recorded during the electromagnetic delay (EMD). IEMG has been related to muscle force production, and IEMG-muscle force relationships have been proposed. Therefore, IEMG during the EMD is associated with muscle force. The electromechanical delay (EMD) is an isometric phase preceding a motor response in which neuromuscular (NM) activity occurs in the absence of mechanical force. The event of EMD is the stretch of the tendon to a load-dependent length. The magnitude of the elastic contribution of tendons must be accounted for to fully understand effective and successful human movements. The purpose of this study is to support a theoretical model to predict tendon mechanics.

In the past, scientists used to stab the tendon with a huge, probe like needle in order to measure the IEMD of the tendon. Today, we use an extrapolated graph of the IEMG-muscle force relationship to predict the force applied the tendon. Tendons are elastic; there is a known relationship between the amount of force applied to an elastic structure and the amount it lengthens. This relationship is $F=kx$. K is a known quality known as stiffness, and it will determine the mechanical qualities of the tendon. X is the load dependent length, which is constant for each individual. This information is crucial because it tells the researcher how much a tendon will lengthen for a given amount of force, and how much energy the tendon can absorb before it ruptures.



Rich Brown

Mentor:
Christopher Williams, PhD
Physical Education
and Sport

The muscles that we looked at were the vastus lateralis, the vastus medialis, and the rectus femoris. In order to find the vastus lateralis and the vastus medialis, the researcher asked the subjects to contract their thigh muscles a few times to visually locate the muscles. The fourth and final muscle was the rectus femoris, and located at the head of the fibula was the ground. The researcher had to shave the area with the grain of the hair and then against the grain, in order to maximally exfoliate.

If this step were done incorrectly, more resistance between the electrodes and the skin would be present. The next step was to perform an alcohol wash to the shaved regions of the leg. The researcher cleaned the area with cotton swabs to remove oil, dirt, shaved hair, and also to exfoliate dead skin cells. This minimized the resistance between the electrodes.

The variables that have been used to test this model are age and joint manipulation. Similarly, this study proposes a change in tendon temperature to study the validity of this model. The tendon generally acts the same as a rubber band; when a rubber band is heated, it takes less force to move it to get mechanical force. The same concept applies to the tendon; if the researcher were to cool the rubber band or tendon, it will take more initial force or energy to get mechanical movement. I expect our data to correlate with this hypothesis. Further investigations to validate this model are proposed, and applications of this model to further understand human movement are discussed.

An Analysis of Attachment Style and Affection Communication in the African American Father-Son Dyad



Nakia M. Burrows

Mentor:

Kelly Brennan-Jones, PhD
Psychology

Introduction

There is no doubt that the significance of fathers in the lives of children is tremendous. Although the last two decades have provided a significant growth in interest in fathering publicly, politically, and academically, the majority of this research focuses on married, middle class, Caucasian fathers. Because research has supported the ideas that fatherhood can be greatly influenced by ethnic heritage and cultural effects, and that different patterns of paternal involvement are apparent across racial and ethnic groups, there is an increasing need to expand the knowledge base of the non-traditional perception of fathering and fathering behaviors in minority men. The purpose of my study is to examine affectionate communication in African American father-son relationships and highlight the importance of fathers in the lives of their sons. Focusing on the levels of affection men received from their own fathers as a predictor of the amount of affection they show their sons, I intend to investigate how such affectionate involvement relates to men's secure, preoccupied, dismissing, and fearful attachment styles in romantic relationships.

Methodology

To investigate the correlation between attachment in romantic relationships and affectionate communication among fathers and sons, 200 African American men will complete questionnaires in regards to the affectionate

communication they share with their fathers, the affectionate communication they share (or intend to share) with their sons, and their attachment style. Due to the difficulty obtaining African American men for research purposes, participation in this study is open to any African American male over age 18.

Results

Although the results of this study will not be available for some time, it is hypothesized that sons of highly affectionate fathers will maintain different

attachment styles in romantic relationships than sons of highly unaffectionate fathers. It is assumed that all of the men will have high intentions in regards to being better fathers to their sons than their fathers were to them, but there will be a significant difference in romantic attachment among sons of highly unaffectionate and highly affectionate fathers. Unlike previous research findings, I am suggesting that men will not always show their sons more affection than they received. Therefore, I expect a significant amount of African-American men to model instead of compensate for negative parental behaviors.

Implications

The goal of this research is to examine and expand awareness of fathers residing outside the parameters of married, middle class, Caucasian men, and increase our understanding of the role of African American fathers in families. While it is unknown whether the hypotheses of this study will be supported, expanding the knowledge of an understudied group of individuals and assessing the affects of affectionate communication as a predictor of fathering will contribute greatly to the study of fathers in child development.

Interpersonal Communication and the Effect on Quantitative and Qualitative Market Research

Ever since my summer job at a result marketing company, I have become intrigued and interested in the process of market research and the communication skills necessary to sell products effectively, thus satisfying the needs of the individual as well as the company. People often do not want to be hassled over the phone with bothersome survey calls or long Internet surveys. Why is it so difficult to take the time out to complete a survey even though respondents sometimes receive a handsome incentive upon completion? It may be that the way an interviewer presents his or her self to respondents in the initial interaction cuts off communication before it even gets started. There are people who are simply not interested in doing market research surveys, but for those who are and those who can be convinced, this research project will show how effective interpersonal communication plays an important part in keeping the respondent interested and, in turn, benefit the company's purpose to get effective and quality feedback on products.

The main purpose of this research project is to examine how interpersonal communication affects the progress of quantitative and qualitative research and show the advantages and benefits this brings to the company and the respondent. Market research is the gathering of data to develop conclusions to studies given to large or small groups of people. This study will compare the different



Latoya L. Coleman

Mentor:

**Monica C. Brasted, MA
Communication**

approaches used to collect information by closely looking at the results and reactions of past studies and provide examples of effective interpersonal communication skills that enhance the interaction between the respondent and the interviewer.

This project will show how the benefits of interpersonal communication function as a key element for businesses that use market research studies to obtain information about their products to understand better people's expectations about their products.

Marketing includes identifying unmet needs; producing products and services to meet those needs; and pricing, distributing, and promoting those products and services to produce a profit. Furthermore, this study will reveal that certain interpersonal communication skills used by interviewers when distributing these products for market research purposes help the success and marketing goals for major companies. Finally, this study will show that clear and effective communication, whether over the phone or online, can be beneficial both to the interviewer and the participant.

To gather data, I plan to consult experts and theorists in the field of market research and interpersonal communication, obtain critical analysis from literature reviews on market research, and discuss how my own experience with market research impacted the way data analysis is performed with interpersonal communication.

In conclusion, this research project will show how interpersonal communication has impacted market research, how to change market research, and how the public changes its perception of marketing.

Cultural Biases Surrounding Male Circumcision

The current literature on circumcision focuses on two aspects: the medicalization of male circumcision and the ethical issues surrounding female circumcision. However, the ethical nature of performing circumcision on male infants is rarely looked at. Over the past few decades, it has become increasingly apparent to the medical community that male circumcision is not a medically necessary procedure. While most Western cultures have tremendously reduced the percentage of circumcisions performed, in the United States, the rate of circumcision is roughly sixty percent. This research attempted to uncover what, if any cultural biases are evident in this country to account for such a significant disparity in the circumcision rates of the United States versus other Western societies.

A survey including questions about sexuality, relationships, personality, attitudes towards circumcision, condom attitudes and impression management were given to



Helen Coon

Mentor:

Kelly Brennan-Jones, PhD
Psychology

two hundred and sixty seven undergraduate students with a median age of twenty, many of them freshman psychology students. Preliminary statistical testing shows that a large number of students have little or no sexual experiences, likely due to the young median age of the participants. Only a very small percentage of students seemed to know the difference between a circumcised and uncircumcised penis. Additionally, there were only a small number of participants who reported either being uncircumcised, or having a partner who was uncircumcised. Due to the homogenous nature of this sample, it was not possible to run more in depth statistics. If this study were replicated, it would be useful to gain a subject pool with more variety in age, ethnicity, countries of origin, race, and sexuality.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Children

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder characterized by intense fear following exposure to a traumatic event. This disorder affects children as well as adults. However, there may be differences between PTSD in children and adults, specifically in the etiology, symptoms and treatment. The purpose of this study is to investigate the ways that this disorder develops in children as well as the ways in which the childhood version differs in its presentation from the adult disorder. The hypothesis is that children are able to develop PTSD vicariously as the result of media exposure to traumatic themes and other indirect exposures; also that the disorder presents itself differently in children than it does in adults. This suggests that media coverage can create psychopathologies and that new criteria for diagnosis as well as age specific treatments are needed to intervene effectively.

A literary review was completed which yielded a significant amount of information that supported the hypothesis. It revealed that the area is generally under studied. Most of the PTSD research with children has been done on children who live in war zones, who have been physically or sexually abused, or who have experienced a natural disaster. These areas do not fit the scope of this investigation because the events are directly experienced. However, some resources observed impairment related to PTSD after events such as viewing television violence or learning of the traumatic death of a friend or loved one.

The effects of this disorder on children are much more general than those seen in adults and there are many social and developmental impairments that can occur. Some examples are regression, omen formation and increased

aggression. In addition there are comorbid disorders, such as conduct disorder, that frequently accompany PTSD. Many children experience sub-clinical levels of this disorder and still suffer significant impairment. This suggests that the criteria used to diagnose the disorder may not be sensitive enough for children.

Developmental stages complicate this topic by altering the presentation of the disorder based on developmental variables. Such variables include but are not limited to cognitive abilities, moral level, and perspective

taking. In addition, language development can be a roadblock to diagnosis and treatment of this disorder in young children. The *Diagnostic Statistical Manual* currently relies on a verbal evaluation to diagnose the disorder. The problem lies with children's inherent nature to play, which is a physical type of communication. The most used method of treatment in adults and children is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), which has been found effective in both groups. In this therapy the goal is to change the thoughts, feelings and behavior toward the feared stimuli. In addition, there are treatment options for children that include play therapy in a wide variety of settings.

To complete this investigation a survey will be issued to parents who have children in a daycare facility. The children's level of vicarious exposure to traumatic themes will be questioned and correlated to any behavior changes that may have developed. It is expected that the survey will support the hypothesis and lead to further studies with this focus.



Deacy Dee

Mentor:

Melissa M. Brown, PhD
Psychology

Chattel Slavery as Cultural Destiny

It is necessary to first of all acknowledge the continuous struggle for equal human rights on behalf of all the worlds' children and people of color who are misrepresented and economically insecure. This research is in no way meant to euphemize actual events in recorded history in order to satisfy the "status quo" set by our oppressors and their spokes men and women in the academic world. The purpose of this work is to try to reach all Africans, meaning all people of color, who wish to explore further the nature of their exploitation from an objective perspective with critical analysis. My approach for this research is based on trying to expose current ways of thinking, looking for levels of reality other than those given in everyday and "official" interpretations of society. In order to change the world, it is necessary to change one's mind. Televised the revolution will not be. It will come in the form of the mass produced written word, as well as the continuous search and fight for truth and righteousness.

This research began by analyzing African chattel slavery utilizing the historically recorded chain of events to the way this cultural phenomenon is currently taught on the collegiate level. Year after year, I sat in classes with intriguing titles regarding the African experience on the continent and the Diaspora. After having been inundated in the "banking" method of education, receiving deposits of pre-selected, ready-made approved knowledge, I posed the question, "Can we view Chattel slavery as a form of the African's cultural destiny rather than the result of European imperialism, colonization, greed, and jealousy?"



Niema N. Georges

Mentor:

Juanita Suarez, MFA
Dance

According to E.W. Blyden, in J.E. Casey Hayford's, *Ethiopia Unbound*, "Africa is distinguished as having served and suffered...like ancient Hebrews." His inference is that if "the principle laid down by Christ is that by which things are decided above, that he who would be chief must become servant of all, then we see the position which Africa and Africans must ultimately occupy". This view leads him to the inevitable conclusion that both slavery and colonization were providentially designed to prepare Africans for their role of world leadership (xxiv).

Paulo Friere, author of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, states, "In order for this struggle to have meaning, the oppressed must not, in seeking to regain their humanity (which is a way to create it), become in turn the oppressors of the oppressors, but rather restorers of the humanity of both. This, then, is the greatest humanistic and historical task of the oppressed: to liberate themselves and their oppressors as well. The oppressors who oppress, exploit, and rape by virtue of their power, cannot find in this power the strength to liberate either the oppressed or themselves. Only power that springs from weakness of the oppressed will be sufficiently strong to free both" (44).

I found that being overcome with feelings of alienation and dehumanization as a result of classroom learning was not constructive. However, this liberating kind of learning also allowed me to become empowered. Power is not given but pursued responsibly with great persistence. Education for empowerment further differs from schooling both in its emphasis on groups rather than individuals and in its focus on cultural transformation rather than social adaptation.

Eavan Boland: A Woman's Quest to Find a Place Within Literature

Eavan Boland is a contemporary Irish poet who has influenced the movement in literature towards inclusion and recognition of women writers. Her book, *Object Lessons*, highlights the five major dilemmas that women writers have had to face in order to find a place within the literary realm. Boland uses Virginia Woolf, Adrienne Rich, and Sylvia Plath as examples of the movement towards inclusion of women writers. The dilemmas that women writers face include learning how to: reclaim the portrayal of women in literature, deal with the lack of a strong tradition of women writers, find a balance between honoring and moving away from the past, have confidence in literature, and deal with the negative stigma of feminism while remaining strong and educated.

The first dilemma that women writers face is learning how to reclaim the portrayal of women in literature through the acknowledgement of the portrayals of women in the past. Boland believes that in recent times, women have been able to reclaim the way that they are portrayed in literature by becoming authors. Boland is able to use the everyday experiences of women in her poetry in a way that was once unheard of, since in the past, the everyday experiences of women were not considered fit for the supposedly higher and more intellectual realm of poetry.

The second major dilemma of women writers is learning how to cope with a lack of a strong tradition of women writers. Both Virginia Woolf and Boland believe that women should connect to female relatives in order to build a more substantial female tradition and history.



Candace Lynn Hoffman

Mentor:

Michael Lackey, PhD.

English

The third dilemma that women writers face is learning to find a balance between honoring the traditions of the past and moving beyond the past and creating new traditions. According to Boland, knowledge of the traditions within literature is very important. She acknowledges the

importance of the past while acknowledging the distinctions associated with being a woman.

The fourth dilemma of women writers is learning how to develop the confidence necessary to create a new kind of literature. Boland and Woolf use the room

as a metaphor for women's writing. In Woolf's image of the room, women are able to have mental strength and independence through their privacy. In Boland's image of the room, it is the beginning of creating writing and symbolizes a starting point rather than a place of mastery.

The final dilemma that women writers face is learning how to cope with the negative stigma that is often attached to feminism while remaining strong and educated. Boland believes that poetry and feminism should not be juxtaposed; she considers herself a poet first, not a feminist poet. This is an important issue because it is essential that women be respected as women as well as writers.

Eavan Boland continues to influence the literary world. She respectfully acknowledges the women who have been a part of the movement towards recognition and respect for women. In addition, she realizes that women are still not on equal grounds with men in the literary realm. Boland uses her writing to bring awareness to these dilemmas and thus creates solidarity among women writers. It is through awareness of these dilemmas that gender inequality in literature will someday be a thing of the past.

Using a Bilingual Manual in Russian Businesses

Computer software designed especially for business can aid in a variety of ways. First, computer software makes critical tasks easier such as keeping track of the business's accounting information and reducing the number of errors caused by incorrect mathematics. Computer programs also aid in keeping a business organized and eliminate unnecessary paperwork, since information is stored the program's memory. The productivity of a business can also increase with the use of computer software because invoices and reports are completed faster on a computer than they are by hand. The special software also enhances the professional look of a business. However, to achieve maximum benefits, one has to be familiar with the computer and be able to understand the vocabulary that is used in the wordy manuals. Unfortunately, the computer software section does not offer a variety of software programs with manuals available in different languages.

Rochester is an example of a city where there are many small businesses whose owners are not primary English speaking. For example, there are many Russian businessmen and women who established companies here. The types of businesses include but are not limited to photography, videography, truck companies, and mechanical shops. The majority of these businesses started off small with only a few workers. But as these businesses expanded, many owners found it difficult to maintain all the paperwork by



Irina Kasap-Ignatovets

Mentor:

**Liza T. Steffen, MA
Foreign Languages
and Literatures**

hand and decided to purchase a computer. Yet the language barrier prohibited the Russian owners to use computers to their full capacity. A bilingual manual that included directions and information in English and a translated Russian text seemed imperative. I became interested

to research to what extent a bilingual manual would increase business productivity. At the beginning of the project, I purchased a copy of QuickBooks Pro software and installed it into a computer at a Russian owned mechanical shop. As I became more

and more acquainted with the way that QuickBooks works, it became evident that translating the whole manual would take more time than was originally planned for. Instead of translating the entire QuickBooks manual, I narrowed my goal to translating only the portion that describes how to create invoices.

After the translation was complete, I began to think of a way to determine how useful the translation really was to a Russian business. Since businesses are full of activity during the day, a time to interview the owners in person became impossible. Instead, I chose a different method of approaching this problem.

I designed a questionnaire that will be distributed with copies of the bilingual manuals to six local Russian businesses that use QuickBooks as their main computer software. It is expected that the business owners to whom this questionnaire will be distributed will respond positively. It is also expected that the bilingual manual will decrease the frustration of workers and increase productivity.

Internet Regulations in China and the United States

The vast amount of information online is a controversial issue that both government and Internet users are concerned about. The Internet has the ability to move large amounts of information across long distances quickly and hold large amounts of information about any searchable subject. Due to the various types of the information on the Internet, the government started to regulate the Internet. Every country has its own priorities and set of regulations to regulate the Internet. However, for part of my research, I concentrated on how China and the United States regulate the Internet as well as their reasons for regulating.

The recent research and scholarly journals illustrate that the levels of Internet regulation in both China and the United States are very different. For instance, in China, Internet regulations and Internet censorship are very controlling compared to the United States. However, both of these countries have different motivations for Internet regulation; in the United States, Internet regulation is for homeland security, in China, Internet regulation and censorship are for political reasons.

In 1994, when the Internet was first introduced in China, a tremendous number of Internet users logged on to the Internet. At the end of June 2000, there were 16.9 million Internet subscribers and 27,289 websites in China. This number is expected to grow to around 40 million by



Neelofer Jaffery

Mentor:

Mark J. Chadsey, PhD
Pol.Sci. & Intern'l Studies

2003 (Lo; Everett). Since there are so many Internet users, it is hard to monitor everyone's activities, but it is possible to control the Internet and certain web pages that the government deems inappropriate for its citizens to view. At the same time, the United States has passed two Federal laws: The Communications Decency Act (CDA) and Child Online Protection Act (COPA); both of these acts are intended to censor offensive content such as on-line pornography.

There is a way to make the Internet safer for everyone. In both China and the

United States the Internet user or the Internet publisher must register with authorities, and if there is any illegal activity on the Internet, then there should be criminal penalties for those Internet users. Moreover, the government has ways to filter sites that contain, for example, pornography or political information.

It is hard to predict if the Internet will change the world. The Internet is a very new and fast technology. It has been very successful for growing businesses because it opened up the door to the global market. However, it also has caused legal problems. But Internet access is vital for the growing economy because the big companies and the media are becoming more and more global, and China cannot afford to stay outside. If China wants to interact with the Western capitalist world, it has no choice except to accept the Internet. This might mean that some Western values and ideas leak through to the Chinese people, but it is inevitable.

Hitler's Road to Genocide

Adolf Hitler, the Holocaust, and the Nazi occupation have always intrigued many people. The reality of how one individual can grip a country so firmly and project his own views onto its people so strongly that they facilitate and perform horrific atrocities against each other is mind-boggling. Over the years, many scientists have conducted research on Hitler's self-fulfillment and his premeditated mass murder of undesirable ethnic groups. The focus of this research is to study Hitler's passions and his ability to rise above his disadvantaged childhood and the unfortunate circumstances of his life to the top of the German hierarchy. With the beliefs that Hitler espoused, did he become more radical as he achieved higher positions or were Hitler's beliefs and philosophy ingrained in him long before his triumphant rise to power?

The psychological, cultural, and societal components that culminated in producing the Hitler that we study today are critical. Hitler began his program of indoctrination by publicizing his goal to make Germany "a healthy and vital nation of Aryans." The plan was to create a population that would be pure and healthy and to eliminate the unhealthy. Hitler envisioned that doctors, lawyers, nurses, and Germans in prestigious positions would all fall into the ranks to make the fatherland pure. With his new policies in place, Hitler set the stage for the gravest injustice known to man: human extermination.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the personality, background, and philosophy that propelled Adolf Hitler into the commanding office of the "Third Reich."



Misselle L. Jeffcoat

Mentor:

Sachio Ashida, PhD.

Psychology

What contributions or lack thereof led to the horrific ideology that Hitler and his many followers believed in? I will attempt to dissect scientifically the personality, behaviors, and desires of the man known as Adolf Hitler. I will seek to untwist the legacy that Hitler left behind; where it began, how it was cultivated, and how it was transplanted into the hearts and minds of so many.

I hope to learn what beliefs, actions, and other factors contribute to and/or precipitate individuals to enact programs of genocide. The methodology I will use

in this study will combine a complete dissection of any influences on Hitler's life, along with case studies, government reports, and pertinent psychological studies. For these are the base components, once assembled, that produced the Hitler who stunned and horrified the whole world.

Researching the psychopathologies of those who commit extreme atrocities is essential in trying to comprehend the actions of potential psychopaths. Analyzing the very pertinent precursors that may lay hidden in these minds may be useful in eliminating or even minimizing "genocidal crimes" worldwide, and possibly in attempting to prevent history from repeating itself. Taking into account the variety of different factors instrumental in developing certain ideologies and philosophies, I believe that we may be able to implement more stringent filtering processes for those who aspire to key positions in government.

The Minority Medical Education Program Experience

In the summer of 2003, I had the opportunity to participate in the Minority Medical Education Program at Yale Medical School; the program consists of a biomedical lecture series, in-depth MCAT preparation, writing and communications classes, participation in an autopsy, clinical applied basic sciences scenarios, a financial planning workshop, an introduction to public health and epidemiology, interviews with members of the medical college admissions committee, a series of mock medical school interviews, and most importantly, medical ethics lectures.

Medical ethics is the foundation for treating patients efficiently. There are four major theories in ethics: consequentialism, Kantian Deontology, natural law, and virtue ethics. Consequentialism deals with the right or wrongness of an action and its consequences. Kantian Deontology is the belief that the right or wrongness of some acts can be independent of the consequences. Natural law is a rational reflection on nature that will yield an action by each human, thus leading to fulfillment. Although we do not know the outcome of our actions, we can look at the different aspects of the actions to reach a conclusion as to whether they are right or wrong. Virtue ethics are dispositional traits of character that are considered praiseworthy. These ethical theories are taken into account when dealing with medical ethics.

Medical ethics focuses on four interwoven beliefs: beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice. Autonomy is the most important concept because it deals



Luis Labrador

**Biological Science:
The MMME Program
at Yale University**

with informed consent, confidentiality, respect for refusal of treatment, and the absence of persuasion or coercion. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act is a federal law that was passed in 1996 that protects patient confidentiality and guarantees a bill of

rights. Beneficence and non-maleficence focus on what is good for the patient while justice deals with horizontal and vertical equities.

Medical ethics also involves a fiduciary relationship between the patient and the physician that is essential for

diagnosis and treatment. There is an underlying relationship: the patient is in the center, personal and moral stances are allowed, and patient autonomy is the foundation. Cultural competence is the ability to provide care to patients with diverse values. There may be barriers to this competency such as lack of diversity, systems of care that are poorly designed, and poor communication. The benefit of this competency is bridging the gaps in health disparities. To possess cultural competency, a physician must be aware of the impacts of social and cultural factors on health beliefs.

Spirituality in medicine takes into consideration the respect for patients' belief in their treatment and is a part of maintaining patient autonomy. The physician has to provide the patient with alternatives for methods if a patient's values conflict with a certain treatment, or lay out the consequences if the patient does not undergo that treatment. It is important to remember that the doctor-patient relationship should never be violated. This includes respect for patients' attitudes toward their treatment because of their spirituality or cultural beliefs.

Campus-Wide Diversity: In Search of an Assessment Tool

Many colleges and universities struggle with implementing diversity beyond their mission statement. One aspect of this struggle is the need to operationalize diversity for strategic planning, curriculum development, and educational outcome measures for accrediting bodies (i.e. Middle States). The long-term outcome for this research project is to join other institutions of higher learning in their endeavors to assess diversity on campus. One challenge however, is the development of tools for assessing campus diversity (climate). To explore current assessment tools used by other campuses is labor intensive, yet imperative in the research process. Therefore, the main purpose of this research is to search the literature on assessment tools for SUNY Brockport's diversity initiatives. SUNY Brockport has yet to configure a baseline for implementing changes to improve on the overall diversity of our campus climate.

The demographics of our country are changing at an alarming pace. In this melting pot that we call the United States of America, it is becoming increasingly important to be able to succeed in a culturally diverse work force. "If one-third of the nation will be composed of minority persons by the year 2010, as demographers predict, minority citizens must be included in the economic, political, social, and educational mainstream."¹ (ACE, pg. 4). In addition, we are currently witnessing the expansion of a global economy, where business interactions are no longer confined within our own borders. We have to become effective at interacting



Angela Marie Miller

Mentor:

Carmen I. Aponte, PhD
Social Work

with people from other cultures. So the question posed to ourselves is this: "Is this institution of higher learning preparing us to succeed in this new-age work force"?

For this research project, I will be conducting a literature review, focusing on studies done to evaluate the diversity levels of different college campuses. I will use the resources on this campus (i.e. library, computers, etc.) for the literature search. Thus far, I have gathered literature pertaining to the assessments employed at Indiana State

University, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, and the University of Wisconsin to use in my evaluations. Other sources of information will include literature from the American Council on Education (ACE), and a review entitled "The Benefits of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Higher Education", written by Jeffery F. Milem and Kenji Hakuta.

My recommendation for SUNY Brockport is that, upon completion of this research project, an assessment tool will be developed and implemented on our campus. Once a baseline has been established, strategies should be defined for producing and measuring changes in the level of diversity at SUNY Brockport. If the college is to truly embrace this change, it should be accepted and implemented in all sectors of the institution, including the student body, the administration, the faculty & staff, the curriculum, and the social climate in which these bodies interact.

¹ American Council on Education, *Minorities On Campus: A Handbook for Enhancing Diversity*, 1989

Mothers' and Fathers' Parenting Self-Efficacy: Links to Parenting Support, Parent Behavior and Child Compliance

Research on the correlates and consequences of parenting self-efficacy leaves many questions unanswered. There is little known about what variables affect the level of one's parenting self-efficacy, or how self-efficacy affects parent behavior and children's development of emotion regulation. Moreover, increasing evidence suggests a critical and unique role of fathers in children's development. This leads us to consider whether there is a difference between mothers and fathers in their perceptions of themselves as parents and how this relates to family interaction. The first objective of this study is to examine the relations among parenting self-efficacy, support for co-parenting, parent involvement, and child compliance. The second objective of this study is to examine whether the levels of these variables and the relations among them differ for mothers and fathers.

We will recruit 25 intact heterosexual families with two-year-old children. Using self-reports and spousal reports on questionnaires, we will measure perceptions of parenting self-efficacy, level of support for co-parenting, and the



Rachel Mitaritonna

Mentor:

Susan M. Shonk, PhD

Psychology

quality of parents' involvement with their toddler. In this study parenting self-efficacy is defined as the degree to which parents perceive themselves as capable and effective in their role as parents. Support for co-parenting is defined as the extent to which parents are in agreement in their beliefs about childrearing, if they support each other's behaviors and if they live up to each other's expectations. Child compliance is a strong indicator of children's developing ability to regulate emotion and control their impulses; however, little is known about

mothers' and fathers' differential effects on children's development. Therefore, mother-child and father-child dyads will be observed during a series of child compliance tasks in our laboratory.

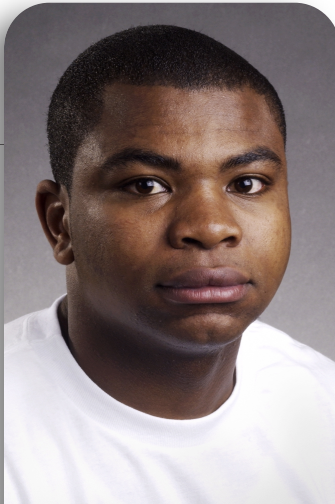
A review of current literature supports the following predictions: Parents who report higher support for co-parenting will report higher efficacy as parents, will be more warm and nurturing toward their child, and will have greater success in supporting child compliance during laboratory tasks. It also is predicted that lower levels of support for co-parenting will have a greater impact on fathers' than on mothers' self-efficacy and parent behavior. Implications of the results for promoting parents' competence and support for children's autonomy and emotion regulation will be discussed.

Consumer Confidence and Stock Prices

Consumer confidence is a very important variable affecting a host of economic activities including stock prices. First, let us explain consumer confidence.

Consumer spending is responsible for two-thirds of the U.S. economic activities every year. Therefore, the U.S. economy has much greater exposure to variations of consumer confidence. Consumer confidence is an index published by The Conference Board. The Consumer Confidence Survey is based on a representative sample of 5,000 United States households. The monthly survey is conducted for The Conference Board by NFO World Group.

In this study, we examine the relationship between the change in large cap stock prices as measured by the change in the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) and the change



Nicholas Montaque

Mentor:

**Sandeep Singh, PhD
Business-Economics**

in consumer confidence. We attempt to answer this question using OLS regression analysis. OLS regression creates a linear model that produces the minimum average prediction error. Of course, the goal of any predictive model is to predict as accurately as possible. So it should come as no

surprise that OLS regression is concerned with finding a regression line that provides the best fit to the data points.

Secondary research has shown the connection between the change in small cap stock prices and the change

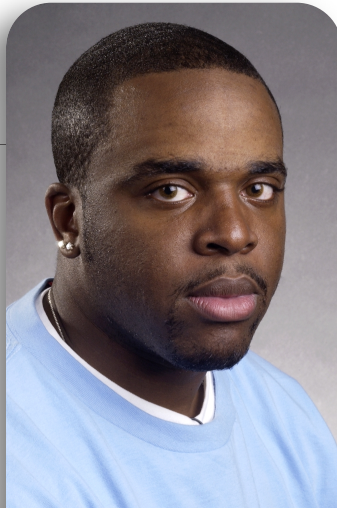
in consumer confidence using the change in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. At the completion of this research, I expect that by measuring the change in the Dow Jones Industrial Average we are going to find that a change in consumer confidence does indeed reflect a change in large cap stock prices.

Hiring Practices Of Black Coaches in the National Football League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association

Over the past twenty years, there has been a noticeably minute amount of black coaches hired in the areas of the National Football League (NFL) as well as the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football (NCAA). Although the numbers are shockingly low, there has been little research conducted on this very important issue.

Black players represent about 50% of the individuals in the 117 Division I-A programs; yet a black male coaches only 4% of the teams. Along with these embarrassing numbers is the fact that, in the NFL, only 3% of the 32 teams have a black head coach, even though 70% of the players are black. The data shows that while there are predominately black players on these teams, it is a rare occasion when a black man is in charge.

There are many critics on this issue who believe black men should assume only an assistant position in dealing with the players. Advocates for the hiring of black males, many of them black coaches, take on a very different, and in some cases, very influential role in this matter. Since qualifications for a head coaching position are often very general, more questions as to why there is a lack of black head coaches should be posed.



Michael Nance

Mentor:

Barbara J. Thompson, MA
African and
Afro-American Studies

The sources I used for this research consisted of newspaper articles, books, magazine articles, and college web sites. I examined current magazines and newspaper articles because this issue is slowly becoming much more popular in the media. I also studied past articles in order to discover what the early stages of opportunity are and how they have developed in the NFL as well as NCAA Division I Football.

My findings thus far have revealed that progress is being made, but there are still cases in which organizations seem

to make a deliberate effort not to hire black males as the leaders of their respective teams. Since 1982, there have been over 348 Division I head coaching vacancies but only 17 of those positions have been filled by a black male. This is in spite of the fact that in the NFL, black coaches have a higher winning percentage, more wins in their first season, more wins per year, and more playoff appearances than their white counterparts.

Many years have passed and many coaches have come and gone, but today's society remains blind to this issue, creating missed opportunities. My objective in this research is to open minds and hopefully create a push for more analysis on this topic by creating awareness of its importance.

The Seven Deadly Sins and Their Representation in the Renaissance, Romantic and Modern Literary Periods

Throughout literary history, the Seven Deadly Sins have been represented mostly in a theological context; considering their theological importance alone, however, limits our appreciation of their full value. Their appearance in literary texts of three historical periods: the Renaissance, the Romantic and the Modern, advances a reader's understanding of the centrality of religious symbolism to the Anglo culture as well as their role in advancing the themes of the texts in which they appear. The literary works in these three periods have been an essential part of the accepted cannon of literature and embody the different genres that exemplify these phases. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to describe and analyze the characteristics and pictorial representations of the Seven Deadly Sins over time, and thus to demonstrate the importance of their literary value as well as their theological significance.

The Seven Deadly Sins are those Biblical sins which, according to medieval theology, would result in spiritual death and could only be atoned for by perfect penitence: Pride, Anger, Envy, Greed, Sloth, Lust and Gluttony.



Andrea Rodriguez

Mentor:

Teresa K. Lehr, MA
English

They appeared in many medieval works, often in human form, as a means of helping people examine their behavior before God. Indeed, theology is the foundation that the Seven Deadly Sins are based on; however, this research project will show that their representation

as literary devices is equally important. The Renaissance, the

Romantic, and the Modern period

include three authors who depict the sins in a more literary fashion. Using a comparative methodology, I will research one literary work from each of these

periods in which either the full personification or important attributes of the Seven Deadly Sins can be observed: The Fairie Queen by Edmund Spenser, The Book of Urizen by William Blake, and The Dubliners by James Joyce. Each of these authors has incorporated elements of the Seven Deadly Sins without any reference to matters of faith or religious convictions. I will also demonstrate that the Seven Deadly Sins have retained their symbolic value even in our day and age, as evidenced by the 1995 movie, *Se7en*, featuring Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman, which illustrates a distinct shift in understanding issues of morality.

With the analysis of the pictorial descriptions of the Seven Deadly Sins as well as their literary representation in these works, I hope to illustrate the importance of the sins' literary value and show how attitudes toward this originally Biblical concept have evolved.

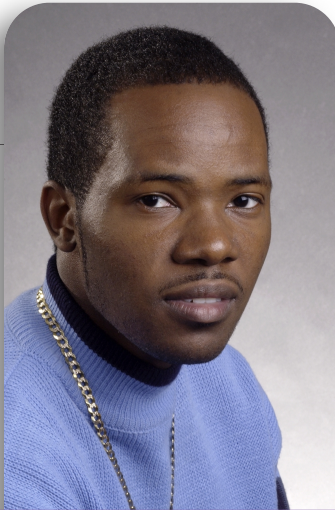
To Shack Up or Not To Shack Up, That is the Question: Cohabitation 101

Cohabitation is when a male and female decide to live together before marriage to find out if they are really meant for one another.

According to researchers, the numbers of people cohabitating has risen enormously in the U.S. In the 1960's there were only about 439,000 people living together. In the 1990's this number jumped to 3.2 million. Now, in the 21st century, there are 5.5 million couples cohabitating.

Despite this increase, research has shown that 50% of couples who choose to cohabit are 50% more likely to divorce one another after they get married than couples that chose not to cohabit before marriage. This means that just because people live together does not mean that they will stay together. Why are these numbers so high? Research has shown that couples who cohabit before marriage demonstrate more negative support behaviors and less problem solving skills compared to couples who did not cohabit.

Another explanation for the high percentage in divorce rates among people who cohabit is that the people involved in these relationships possess characteristics that are risk factors for divorce. Researchers have also noticed that people who cohabit usually come from divorced homes and from low-income areas. Several researchers have also stated that the change in society's values, especially the increase in premarital sexual activity, is another factor. Other factors include being a young adult with no or very little religious



Jah-el Russell

Mentor:
Stanley Rose, PhD
African and
Afro-American Studies

beliefs, being non-white, experiencing premarital pregnancy and childbirth, as well as having a greater acceptance for divorce.

According to the 2000 census, 8.1% of the people who are cohabitating are non-Hispanic White couples, 16.9% are Black, 17.4% are Native American, 12.2% are Hispanic, and less than 5% Asian. Two researchers by the names of Kozach and Cooney found that premarital cohabitation was higher in adolescents who were exposed to a high level of parental conflict and divorce.

Studies have also shown that the average American marriage rate has fallen about two-fifths since the 1970's. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention believes that premarital cohabitation seems to make divorce rates for couples that did not cohabit about one-quarter lower than the average rate. In fact, according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention about 43 percent of marriages where cohabitation was involved break up. This is compared to only 31 percent of married couples who did not cohabit.

The purpose of this study is to find out if people are still willing to cohabit and why or why not. I will also compare these research findings with existing research to find out if my statistics and findings match. This will be done through extensive interviewing of college students, which will include freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Through this research I hope to find if there is a difference in opinion by age, race, social and economic backgrounds, family structure (single or two parent households), and gender among the different groups.

Conservation and Development in Costa Rica

This project is a study of the dichotomy between conservation and development in Costa Rica. The conservation of national resources has been of great concern throughout the world.

The increase in human population has a significant impact on the use and misuse of natural resources. Costa Rica, a small country in Central America, with a population of about four million people and an area of approximately 20,000 square miles (about the size of Switzerland), is a good example of the dichotomy between conservation and development. This study has the following objectives:

To examine, from a historical perspective, the most significant changes in the use and misuse of natural resources.

To identify and describe some of the significant efforts to reverse the destruction of the environment and to implement a program of sustainable development, which reconciles development and conservation.

To accomplish the aforementioned purposes, extensive data were examined to document the progression of the destruction of the environment as reflected in the extensive deforestation and the reduction of natural resources. Likewise, abundant data were examined to document the efforts to reverse that trend and to diagnose the future patterns of sustainable development. The examined data revealed the following:



Elba Alicia Simpson

Mentor:

**Victor J. Rojas, PhD
Foreign Languages
and Literatures**

Between 1940 and 1977 Costa Rica went through a devastating reduction of rainforest and biodiversity in order to sustain the economic development, which was based mainly on cattle raising and the production and exportation of bananas and coffee.

Between 1977 and 1997, Costa Rica reversed the trend and began a progressive conservation effort. The rate of deforestation changed dramatically between 1970 and 1999. Just in the year 1970, deforestation was measured at 60,000 hectares. In the last five years,

however, deforestation accounted for 5,000 hectares per year (a hectare is equivalent to 2,471 acres).

At the present time, in 2003, 43.5% of the land is covered by rainforest as a result of extensive reforestation.

Approximately 25% of the rainforest is now protected and ecologically managed. Changes in resource management such as the implementation of eco-tourism and agricultural diversification have brought effective incentives for reforestation and economic growth.

In conclusion, Costa Rica has demonstrated that it is possible to combine economic interest with conservation efforts. The sustainable development program that Costa Rica is implementing exemplifies the reconciliation between conservation and development. If the current trend continues, Costa Rica will maintain and improve its natural resources while prospering economically.

Oil Exploration in Nigerian Oil Producing Communities: Blessing or Curse?

The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of oil exploration and exploitation activities by multinational oil companies in the Nigerian oil producing communities of the Niger Delta, assessing the degrees of harms such activities have caused to these communities and peoples, and what roles the oil companies play in exacerbating such human and environmental rights violations in these areas.

My hypothesis states that oil, the “Black Gold”, which may produce great wealth for some in other parts of the world, has become a weapon of enslavement, under-development, perpetual colonization and even death to the peoples and communities of the Niger Delta.

Using the qualitative method, this research gathered reports of investigations conducted by different national and international human and environmental rights groups on the activities of the four American and one British oil companies operating in the Niger Delta. Interviews conducted with the communities affected, community leaders, religious and social groups, experts in oil exploration management, government representatives, and youth organizations revealed that “the Niger Delta has for some years been the site of major confrontations between the people who live there and the Nigerian Government security forces as well as the multinational oil corporations who successfully armed these security forces with guns, weapons, gun boats and helicopters, resulting in extra-judicial executions, arbitrary



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Mentor:

**Michael Cavanagh, MS
Communication**

detentions, and draconian restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association, movement and assembly. These violations of civil and political rights have been committed principally in response to protests about the activities of the multinational companies that produce

Nigeria’s oil” (Human Rights Watch 1999).

Despite the rights guaranteed by articles 1& 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and articles 21 & 24 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the peoples and

communities of the Niger Delta are still deprived, marginalized and enslaved by the multinational oil companies and the Nigerian Government through the compulsory acquisition of their lands in the name of the 1978 Land Use Decree promulgated by the Obasanjo regime in 1978. According to Ike Okonta and Oronto Douglas in their book, “Where Vultures Feast-Shell, Human Rights, and Oil in the Niger Delta”, “clearly, the Niger Delta is, at least at the moment, the goose that lays the golden egg (19).”

Yet, in spite of its considerable natural resources, the area is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped parts of the country and in the world. Seventy percent of the inhabitants still live a rural, subsistent existence characterized by total absence of such basic facilities as electricity, pipe-borne water, hospitals, proper housing and drivable roads—good infrastructural facilities. They are weighed down by debilitating poverty, malnutrition and disease (Okonta and Douglas 19).

This declaration led to the total annihilation and extinction of the OGONI race and communities, capped by the judicial murder of Ken Saro Wiwa and eight other OGONI civil and environmental activists on November 10, 1995.

Contributors

Advisory Board:

Dr. Mark Anderson
Dr. Betsy Balzano
Ms. Nora Bell
Dr. Melissa Brown
Dr. Mark Chadsey
Ms. Mary Ann Giglio
Ms. Sandra Holinbaugh-Beltz
Ms. Barbara LeSavoy
Ms. Isabella Mark
Mr. Wilfredo Matos
Dr. Barbara Mitrano
Ms. Lisa Petros
Dr. Kenneth Schlecht
Dr. Susan Stites-Doe
Dr. George Toth

Program Staff

Ms. Barbara Thompson, Project Director
Ms. Herma Volpe-van Dijk, Associate Project Director
Ms. Denise Sulimowicz, Academic Coordinator
Ms. Mary Ewert, Administrative Assistant

McNair Staff Personnel:

Mr. Anthony Ciotti
Mr. Derek Dunn
Mr. Jah-el Russell
Ms. Jalene Shafer

Editor:

Ms. Herma Volpe-van Dijk

Graphic Design:

Mr. Matthew J. Volpe

Photography:

Mr. Jim Dusen

Printing:

ColorCentric Corporation



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Skilled



Motivated

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